

Walsh's BNA catalogue lauded for 'uniqueness of his approach'



Philatelic BOOKSHELF

By David Piercey

A few issues ago I reviewed Newfoundland philately expert John Walsh's 2018 Newfoundland specialized catalogue; now, let's turn our attention to his British North America (BNA) specialized catalogue.

The 2018 *British North America Specialized Stamp Catalogue* covers the remaining stamp-issuing entities of BNA, including New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, British Columbia and Vancouver Island, plus Canadian issues to 1951. Now in its 11th edition, the catalogue has been published by Walsh, who's the owner of Walsh's Philatelic Services, every few years since 1988. It's only been available as an electronic edition since 2010, when it marks its eighth edition.

For the Canadian collector, this catalogue is a strong alternative to the *Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps* as it delves into further specialized areas not otherwise easily available to the interested collector. Walsh has utilized the expertise of a variety of well-known Canadian philatelists to provide such further specialized information and is to be credited with the thoroughness and uniqueness of his approach.

For example, one of his major contributors is Julian Goldberg. The catalogue concludes with two chapters based on Goldberg's research. The first chapter is a full exposition on Canadian postage stamps printed by the Stickney rotary press – those being the "Arch" and "Maple Leaf" – as well as the "Medallion" issues printed by the rotary press. It's illustrated with examples showing the gum breaks and other printing characteristics.

The second chapter is about intaglio printings and line perforating perforators also used in this period. It gives a fuller explanation of "wet" and "dry" printing methods. There is even a smaller section by Goldberg entitled "Discovery of Stamp Perforation Changes that Started in 1962," which describes the 11.85 versus the 11.95 perforations that can be found on certain issues up to 1967 with either set of perforations, depending on the particular perforating machine being used.

VARIETIES, POSTMARKS, FORGERIES

For the collector of BNA colonies, this catalogue is invaluable in recording not just the

postal issues and their varieties but also for its listing of known postmarks, of post offices and of postal rates of each colony.

Collectors of forgeries will be impressed with a comprehensive section of forgeries for

each colony, and collectors of the colonies' pre-production material will find illustrations of much of what is currently known to exist either in private hands or in museums and archives.

Walsh utilizes his own numbering system, which is based

on a stamp's design, and lists all known variations of the same design, whether of perforation, of shade, of overprinting, of plate flaws or of the myriad of other possibilities. All stamps of the same design are thus grouped together so the collector can see what is available for each design (rather than the traditional method of hunting throughout the full catalogue). This system then illustrates not only the variations in the issued design but also the pre-production essays, die proofs, plate proofs and even reprints. Tables are provided separately, matching his numbers to both *Scott* and *Gibbons* numbers for ease of reference and comparison.

Now in its 11th edition, the *British North America Specialized Stamp Catalogue* by Newfoundland's John Walsh covers Canadian issues to 1951 in addition to the various stamp-issuing entities of British North America.

Pricing – in U.S. dollars – is provided for not only very fine mint, never hinged, used and on cover but also for inscription or plate blocks by position, too. Often, when quantities issued are known, this is indicated, even for esoteric and rarely encountered material.

A USEFUL HANDBOOK

Walsh's catalogue is not only highly detailed in the areas it covers, but it also proves to be a useful handbook, too.

The handbook nature of this catalogue comes through in the many additional chapters covering not only Canadian forgeries and Canadian postal stationery but also the full variety of federal and provincial revenue stamps, revenue rates for the various documents they were intended to be applied to, semi-official airmails including used on cover, first flights (to 1996), Columbian SCADTA stamps and the Bahamas special delivery overprint.

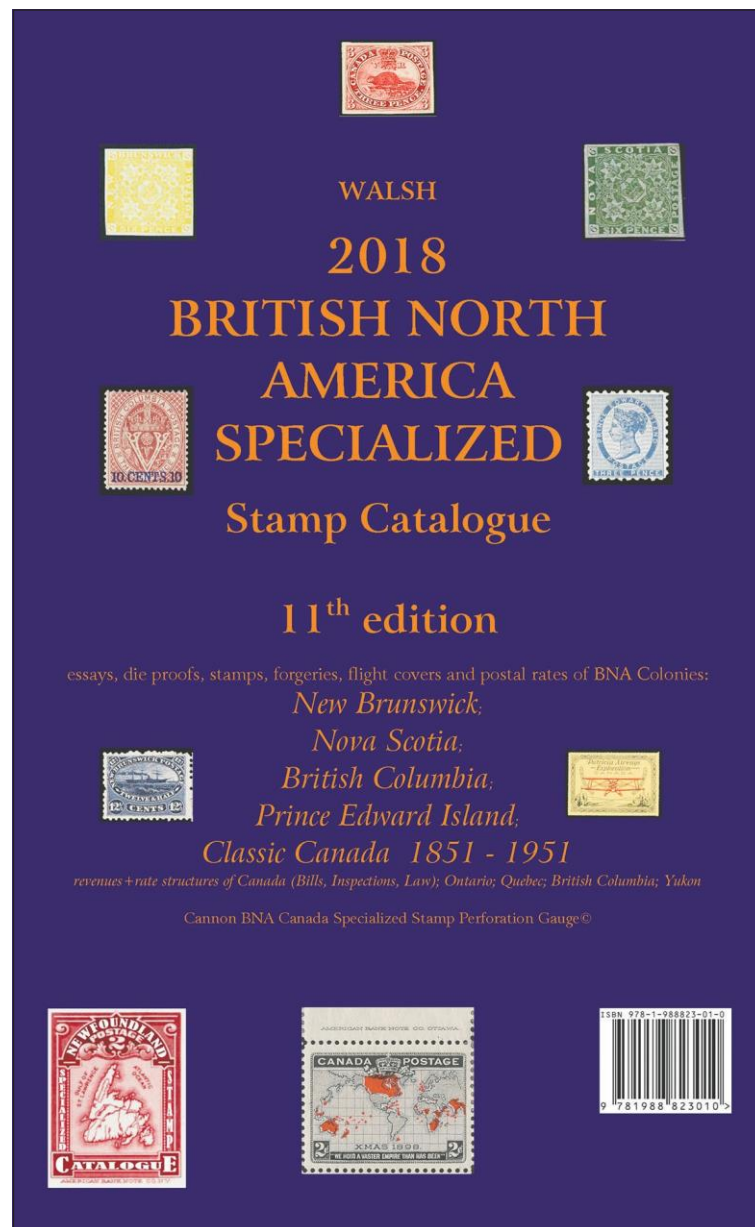
The chapter on Canadian booklets is also quite informative, and I even found it illustrates the varieties of the covers found on the very scarce 1928 "Scroll" issue "farmers'

booklet," something I don't believe having seen illustrated before in other catalogues.

Postal historians will find an informative 20-page section on Canadian postal rates (to 1951), which is particularly helpful in understanding the various pre-stamp rates. There are also rates on early covers to the West Indies as well as the various early airmail rates to different parts of the world, particularly during and just after the Second World War.

There is also a chapter on "Canada Dignitary Booklets," those specially-produced post office presentation booklets provided to dignitaries and politicians at various

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BNAPEX 2019

OTTAWA - ONTARIO - CANADA

**71st Annual Convention,
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British North America Philatelic Society

Friday, August 30 • 10 am - 6 pm

Saturday, August 31 • 10 am - 5 pm

Sunday, September 1 • 10 am - 3 pm

Delta Hotel • Ottawa City Centre
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special events ranging from Universal Postal Union conferences through the postmaster presentations of the 1930s, this country's first Capex and even a Boy Scout Conference.

All in all, Walsh's specialized BNA catalogue provides an important addition to the reference literature on BNA and Canadian philately and deserves a place of consideration in our reference library.

Walsh manages to improve his catalogues with each edition, adding new information each time. His next edition is planned for 2020, and I wonder how he will manage to improve it yet again?

The Walsh *2018 British North America Specialized Stamp Catalogue* is available only as an electronic publication from Walsh's Philatelic Services, nfldstamps.com, for \$50. Purchasers will receive the publication as a downloadable file, which can be saved on one's computer for ongoing reference. **W**